

Message Text

MRN: 1977WELLIN002792 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

ADP402

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07

L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 SIL-01 H-01 /058 W

-----091315 170417Z /13

O 170058Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3593

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 02792

STADIS//////////

DEPT PASSCINCPAC FOR POLAD

3. BEGIN EMBASSY WELLINGTON COMMENT: EMBOFF DISCUSSED FIJI SITUATION WITH HEAD, MFA PACIFIC DIVISION (COTTON) EARLY JULY 17. COTTON SAID MFA HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF AFOREMENTIONED RATU MARA DIATRIBE BY GNZ HICOM IN SUVA BUT OFFERED THE FOLOWING:

A. FIJIAN ARBITRATION COURT WAS SCHEDULED FOR MEET JULY 16 AND WHILE HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED WORD OF RESULTS, THERE IS GOOD PMSSIBILITY THAT COURT WOULD ORDER RESUMPTION OF WORK JULY 18 PENDING ARBITRATION OF DISPUTE AND THAT FIJIAN DOCK WORKERS WOULD AGREE;

B. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO SHIPS LOADED IN FIJI BY NON-UNION LABOR SINCE STRIKE BEGAN;

C. HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY FIJI-BOUND SHIPS WHICH NZ WATERSIDERS HAVE REFUSED TO WORK;

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D. REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND SEAMEN'S UNION IS NOW IN FIJI TO TRY AND "TALK SENSE" TO JWILED NZ SEAMEN WHO WERE ARRESTED JULY 13 FOR ALTERCAGION WITH FIJIAN POLICE AFTER NZ SEAMEN REFUSED TO SHIFT NZ SHIP TO MAKE BERTHAGE ROOM FOR FIJIAN

"NON-UNION" SHIP.

4. THOUGH USG OBVIOUSLY CANNOT GIVE ASSURANCE CONCERNING CONDUCT OF AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS, I FULLY UNDERSTAND RATU MARA'S PREDICAMENT AND HOPE WE CAN FIND SOME WAY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS NEEDS. HE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES; HE HAS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL AFFAIRS OF INTEREST TO US; AND HE IS FACED WITH AN ELECTION WHICH HE COULD LOSE AND WHICH, IN TURN COULD PRODUCE A CHAOTIC SITUATION DAMAGING TO OUR INTEREST. WE DO NOT SUGGEST GETTING INTO THE BIDDING WITH THE CDR ON WHICH OF US IS THE BETTER FRIEND OF FIJI, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT RATU MARA MAY UNWITTINGLY FIND HIMSELF TOO DEEPLY IN DEBT TO THE CHINESE.

5. WITHOUT CREATING INTEREST WHERE THERE IS NONE ALREADY, REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE WELLINGTON AND SUVA WHAT PRESENT US LONGHOREMEN ACTIVITY IS WITH RESPECT TO HANDLING FIJI-BOUND OR EX-FIJI SHIPMENTS. IF FIJIAN SHIPMENTS ARE BEING HANDLED NORMALLY, REQUEST CHARGE SUVA BE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE RATU MARA OF THIS, ADDING AGAIN THAT USG, OF COURSE, DOES NOT HAVE CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES OF INDEPENDENT AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. WE WOULD HESITATE TO GO FURTHER, E.G., 3/043 8,& 6.0-5#6 *94 4-57 .-4-'S DELEMNA, BECAUSE HE MAY USE SUCH A STATEMENT PUBLICALLY. IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN SUGGEST ANY OTHER WAY WE CAN APPEAR TO BE FORTHCOMING WITHOUT INTERPOSING THE US BETWEEN GOF AND TRADE UNIONISTS, WE WOULD WELCOME THIS. SELDEN

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEE.

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